

(c) Oral Rehydration Therapy Programme

Since the programme is not preventive in nature, it is not possible to fix any physical targets.

[English]

River Action Plan

*199. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch the National River Action Plan to clean up polluted stretches of major rivers of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of the entire project;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has indentified such polluted stretches of the rivers in the country,

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments are to share any cost of the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) A National River Action Plan for pollution abatement of grossly polluted stretches of major rivers of the country is under formulation.

(e) and (f). The National River Action Plan is proposed to be taken up as a centrally sponsored scheme with sharing of the capital cost of the works on a 50: 50 basis

between the Centre and the State Governments.

Eco Destruction of Himalayas

*200. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite data has revealed the eco-destruction of the Himalayas;

(b) the estimated forest cover in the Himalayas at the turn of the century;

(c) the reasons for deforestation of Himalayan slopes; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent the eco-destruction of the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the latest assessment of the forest cover made by Forest Survey of India based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the period 1987-89, on loss of forest cover has been reported in the Himalayan tract, except in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

(b) According to the National Forest Policy 1988 "the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in the mountainous regions the aim should be to maintain two third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system "

Presently forest cover in different Himalayan States/regions varies from as low as 9.03% in Jammu and Kashmir to 82.1% in Arunachal Pradesh averaging to about 39% for the entire Himalayan region. Therefore,